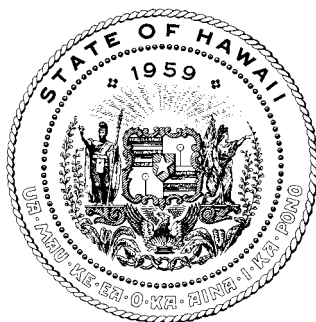


**ANNUAL REPORT TO THE TWENTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
STATE OF HAWAII
REGULAR SESSION OF 2003**

**ON THE STATUS OF THE ISSUANCE OF INCIDENTAL TAKE
LICENSES FOR ENDANGERED, THREATENED, PROPOSED,
AND CANDIDATE SPECIES; AND THE CONDITION OF
THE ENDANGERED SPECIES TRUST FUND
FOR THE PERIOD JULY 1, 2001 – JUNE 30, 2002**



Prepared by

**THE STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE**

In response to Section 195D-26, Hawaii Revised Statutes

Honolulu, Hawaii
November, 2002

**ANNUAL REPORT ON THE STATUS OF THE ISSUANCE OF
INCIDENTAL TAKE LICENSES FOR ENDANGERED, THREATENED,
PROPOSED AND CANDIDATE SPECIES; AND THE CONDITION
OF THE ENDANGERED SPECIES TRUST FUND
FOR THE PERIOD JULY 1, 2001 – JUNE 30, 2002**

PURPOSE

Act 380, Session Laws of Hawaii 1997, amended the State Endangered Species Act, Chapter 195D, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), to provide for the preparation and implementation of habitat conservation plans and safe harbor agreements, and to provide additional incentives for private landowners to recover and protect threatened and endangered species on their lands. One of the provisions of that Act (§195D-26, HRS), required that an annual report be prepared by the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) on the effectiveness of habitat conservation plans (HCP's) or safe harbors (SHA's) issued under the Act and the status of all species for which incidental take licenses have been issued. In addition, the annual report is to include a description of the condition of the Endangered Species Trust Fund established under §195D-31, HRS and any recommendations to further the purposes of this chapter. This annual report is submitted to fulfill the reporting requirement for Fiscal Year (FY) 2002.

FINDINGS

**Effectiveness Of Habitat Conservation Plans And Safe Harbor
Agreements Issued Under The Act**

The following Safe Harbor Agreements have been issued as of June 30, 2001.

1. Reintroduction of Nene to Puu O'Hoku Ranch, Molokai. Issued: September 4, 2001. The Puu O'Hoku Ranch was the first Safe Harbor Agreement in Hawaii. The Agreement calls for Puu O'Hoku Ranch to allow the reintroduction of nene on Puu O'Hoku Ranch, construct a release pen, provide 300 acres of habitat for nene grazing and breeding, and to control predators in the release pen and nene breeding areas. During FY02, a 3.1 acre open-top release pen was constructed, along with one mile of a one inch waterline to provide a water supply for the release pen. A trapping program was begun and operated from February through June, 2002, and the release pen was mowed on a monthly basis. 61 mongoose, 2 rats and 1 mouse were trapped and removed. The Ranch ran a cattle and horse grazing operation to maintain the 735 acre Cape Halawa in pasture and short grass habitat for nene use. 10 juveniles and 1 adult nene were released onto the Ranch in late December. By late January, 1 pair nested successfully and reared 1 young. 3 additional goslings were released in April 2002. No surveys were conducted during this season, however, all 14 birds were sighted and identified in and around the release pen during the report period. During FY2002, there were 14 birds released, no fatalities, and no birds taken on incidental take permit.

2. Safe Harbor Agreement and Habitat Management Plan for Koloa (Hawaiian Duck) and Nene (Hawaiian Goose) on Umikoa Ranch, Island of Hawaii. Issued: December 5, 2001. The Umikoa Safe Harbor Agreement calls for the creation and management of 2.0 acres of wetland ponds and 150 acres of riparian and associated uplands, fencing ponds, predator and weed control and outplanting of food items to benefit koloa and nene. As per the SHA, 8 permanent and 2 seasonal ponds ranging from 0.05 to 0.57 acres (totaling 2.01 acres) and 151.3 acres of ponds and uplands have been fenced and are being managed for koloa and nene. The Ranch has also implemented a predator control program using diphacinone mongoose bait in pond areas and outplanted 21 individuals of a native sedge *Eleocharis calva*. Invasive non-native plants were controlled to prepare out-planting sites for native understory and endangered plant species. Invasive plant species controlled in the enrolled habitat included kikuyu grass, strawberry guava (*Psidium cattleianum*), faya tree (*Myrica faya*), banana poka (*Passiflora molissima*), mule's foot fern (*Angiopteris evecta*), tropical ash (*Fraxinus uhdei*), *Senecio vulgaris*, and blackberry (*Rubus ellipticus*). Control and eradication of these weeds will be continued on a priority basis. During FY2002, there were no nene and 4 koloa counted during the annual survey. 1 koloa brood was produced in May 2002 indicating successful nesting on the Ranch. There were no birds taken on the incidental take permit.

Endangered Species Recovery Committee

The following individuals serve on the Endangered Species Recovery Committee during 2002:

Mr. Gilbert S. Coloma-Agaran, Chairperson, Board of Land and Natural Resources (Board).
Designated Representative - Mr. Paul Conry, Wildlife Program Manager, Division of Forestry and Wildlife, Honolulu, HI. (Agency Representative)

Mr. Paul Henson, Ecoregion Manager, US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) - Pacific Islands Ecoregion
Designated Representative - Ms. Gina Shultz, USFWS.

Dr. William Steiner, Director, US Geological Service (USGS)- Biological Resources Division (BRD), Honolulu
Designated Representative - Dr. James Jacobi, USGS-BRD, Hawaii National Park, HI. (Agency Representative)

Dr. John Harrison, Executive Director, UH Environmental Center, University of Hawaii, Manoa, HI. (University Representative)

Mr. Joby Rohrer, Honolulu, Oahu (Appointed Member, Term expires June 30, 2005).

Mr. Rick Warshauer, Volcano, HI (Appointed Member, Term expires June 30, 2003).

The committee met 5 times during the reporting period, held 2 conference calls and exchanged correspondence on the processing of applications. The Committee also reviewed the Final Safe Harbor Agreement for Umi Koa Ranch and the Draft and Final Programmatic Safe Harbor Agreement for Reintroduction of Nene to Molokai, the Habitat Conservation Plan for Hawaiian Stilt at Cyanotech Aquaculture Facility Keahole Point, Hawaii and submitted recommendations to the Board.

Condition Of The Endangered Species Trust Fund (S-02-324-C)

The Department established the Endangered Species Trust Fund at the beginning of FY 1998.

Beginning Balance of Fund on July 1, 2001:	\$875
Revenues during FY 2002:	\$50,438
Expenditures during FY 2002:	\$4,506
Cash Balance as of June 30, 2002:	\$46,807

Unpaid encumbrances as of June 30, 2002:	\$593
Unencumbered Cash for carryover as of June 30, 2002:	\$46,214

FY 2002 REVENUE

1.	Sale of endangered species items (general)	\$388
2.	General donation to endangered species efforts:	\$50
3.	Grant for Management of Hamakua Marsh, Oahu (314)	<u>\$50,000</u>

Total Revenue FY2002:	\$50,438
-----------------------	----------

FY 2002 EXPENDITURES

The following expenditures were made out of the fund by project:

1.	Hamakua Marsh, Oahu, Hawaii Community Foundation Grant.	
	Expenditures to implement the wetland habitat restoration project:	\$4,506
	Outstanding encumbrances:	\$593

No other expenditures were made from the Endangered Species Trust Fund.

The source of revenue for the Trust Fund is expected to be the deposits into the Fund for implementation of HCPs and SHAs, donations earmarked for endangered species efforts or specific projects, and proceeds from the sale of environmentally themed products such as endangered species stamps, posters, books, etc., sold to the public to raise money for conservation of Hawaii's resources. The Endangered Species Trust Fund (S-03-324), like other special funds, is subject to central services and administrative costs. However, these were not assessed during FY02. Contributors have expectations that the funds deposited into the Trust

Fund will be used for the intended purposes and protected and be available in the future to implement actions for HCPs or SHAs.

Recommendations

1. The Legislature consider revising the definition of landowner under §195D-2, HRS, to allow all government-owned lands in the State to be eligible for safe harbor agreements and habitat conservation plans.
2. The Legislature consider exempting the Endangered Species Trust Fund from central service and administrative costs under sections 36-27 and 36-30, HRS, respectively, to ensure that all funds deposited for implementation of HCPs and SHAs are used for intended purposes and to encourage greater public and private sector donations for environmental programs.